

Amendment to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Cancelled)

3. (currently amended) A ~~junction for a~~ conveyor belt according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 15, wherein the bush inserts are made in the second half-junctions so that the bush inserts ~~drives~~ drive the edges of the hole of the two cores ~~sections of the core~~ that surround the bush inserts perpendicularly in the general plane ~~of these layers thereof~~ and are therefore solidly attached to the second half-junction in two perpendicular planes ~~by a constituent material and the sections of the core that surround them.~~

4. (currently amended) A ~~junction for a~~ conveyor belt according to claim 3, wherein the bush inserts comprise a section forming a flat flange that is attached to the actual bush section and arranged perpendicularly to the end of the bush that is the closest to the outside surface of the bottom level of the matching second half-junction, only being separated from this surface by a thin layer of a constituent material, these flanges extending in a plane that is parallel to the general plane of the second half-junction and being solidly attached to the constituent material that surrounds them.

5. **(currently amended)** A ~~junction for a~~ conveyor belt according to claim 4, wherein the cup inserts are made in the first half-junctions so that the cup rests closely, by its sections that border the central hole, against the edges of the hole made in the two cores ~~sections of the core~~, with which it is attached by the surrounding constituent material.

6. **(currently amended)** A ~~junction for a~~ conveyor belt according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 14, wherein the front edge of the top level of the first half-junction has a succession of front edge sections perpendicular to the longitudinal direction of the first half-junction, separated from each other in the longitudinal direction and front edge sections that extend longitudinally, each of these front edge sections perpendicular to the longitudinal direction being connected to the closest front edge sections that are perpendicular to the longitudinal direction shifted towards the rear by front edge sections that are parallel to the longitudinal direction, thus forming a broken line, the shapes of the front edge of the bottom level of the first half-junction, of the front edge of the top level of the second half-junction and of the front edge of the bottom level of the second half-junction resulting, as defined above, from the shape of the front edge of the top level of the first half-junction, the core being slit longitudinally over the distances required to form shifted folds and the shifted folded sections corresponding to the shifted front edge sections.

7. **(currently amended)** A ~~junction for a~~ conveyor belt according to claim 6, wherein the front edge of the first half-junction is in the shape of a broken line arranged overall obliquely across the first half-junction.

8. **(currently amended)** A ~~junction for a~~ conveyor belt according to claim 6, wherein the front edge of the first half-junction, ~~in an outline sketch,~~ is in the shape of a broken line arranged in an overall V shape, the point pointing towards the front.

9. **(currently amended)** A ~~junction for a~~ conveyor belt according to claim 6, wherein the front edge of the first half-junction alternately comprises first front edge sections perpendicular to the longitudinal direction and second front edge sections perpendicular to the longitudinal direction shifted towards the rear in relation to the first front edge sections.

10. **(currently amended)** A ~~junction for a~~ conveyor belt according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 14, wherein the front edge of the top level of the first half-junction is in the shape of a V with its arms forming straight lines, the point of the V pointing towards the front, the shapes of the front edge of the bottom level of the first half-junction, of the front edge of the top level of the second half-junction and of the front edge of the bottom level of the second half-junction resulting from the shape of the front edge of the top level of the first half-junction, and the folds of the ~~[[core]]~~ cores being arranged obliquely in relation to the longitudinal direction, following the arms of the V of the shape of the front edges towards the rear.

11. **(currently amended)** A ~~junction for a~~ conveyor belt according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 14, wherein the front edge of the top level of the first half-junction is substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal direction, with the exception of one or more V-shaped indentations, the point of the V pointing towards the rear, ~~which can also be in the shape of a concave curve,~~ the core sections being indented ~~also,~~ following the shape towards the rear of the indentations of the front edges of the top level of the first half-junction, the shapes of the front edges of the

bottom level of the first half-junction and of the top level and of the bottom level of the second half-junction resulting from the shape of the front edge of the top level of the first half-junction, and the core sections of the bottom level of the second half-junction being indented following the shape of the indentations of the front edge of this bottom level of the second half-junction towards the rear.

12. **(currently amended)** A junction for a conveyor belt according to claim [[1]] 14, wherein the first and second half-junctions are formed of vulcanized rubber or plastic.

13. **(currently amended)** A junction for a conveyor belt according to claim [[1]] 14, wherein the fasteners are one of a screw, rivet, or stud.

14. **(new)** A conveyor belt, comprising:
first and second ends; and
first and second half-junctions at said first and second ends, respectively, the first and second half-junctions being shaped to interlink with each other to form a junction, each of the first and second half-junctions having a generally flat shape defining a general plane of the junction,

the first half-junction including:

an upper layer and a lower layer, each of the upper and lower layers being integral with the first end of the conveyor belt,

a flexible core extending between the upper layer and the lower layer, the flexible core being folded so as to provide overlapping layers that form a fold protruding towards the second end of the conveyor belt parallel to the general plane of the junction, the

upper layer and the flexible core being closer to the second end of the conveyor belt than the lower layer, and

inserts extending through the upper layer and the overlapping layers of the flexible core perpendicularly to the general plane of the junction, the inserts of the first half junction being spaced from the lower layer, and

the second half-junction including:

a lower layer and an upper layer, each of the lower and upper layers being integral with the second end of the conveyor belt,

a flexible core extending between the lower layer and the upper layer, the flexible core being folded so as to provide overlapping layers that form a fold protruding towards the first end of the conveyor belt parallel to the general plane of the junction, the lower layer and the flexible core being closer to the first end than the upper layer, and

inserts extending through the lower layer and the overlapping layers of the flexible core perpendicularly to the general plane of the junction, the inserts of the second half-junction being spaced from the upper layer,

wherein the flexible core of one of the first and second half-junctions overlaps the flexible core of the other one of the first and second half-junctions at the junction, and the upper layer of each one of the first and second half-junctions is arranged end-to-end with the upper layer of the other one of the first and second half junctions at the junction.

15. (new) A conveyor belt according to claim 14, wherein

the inserts of the first and second half-junctions include cup inserts and bush inserts allowing the passage of assembly rods.

16. **(new)** A conveyor belt according to claim 15 wherein
each of the assembly rods extends through one of the inserts of the first half-junction
and through one of the inserts of the second half-junction without protruding from the
junction.

17. **(new)** A conveyor belt according to claim 14, wherein
the junction and each half-junction have a maximum thickness that is equal to or
slightly less than that of the ends of the conveyor belt.